

**Rouge River Advisory Council (RRAC)  
Draft Meeting Summary  
September 14, 2016**

**Attendees:**

Attended?	Name	Attended?	Names
Y	Dan Ballnik, Chair	N	Karen Mondora, Farmington Hills
Y	John Beisel, Farmington Hills	Y	Noel Mullett, Wayne County Dept. of Public Services
Y	Marty Boote, Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC)	N	Rob Myllyoja, Stantec
Y	Cory Borton, Hubbell Roth and Clark, Inc.	Y	Chris O'Meara, ARC
Y	Jeff Braunscheidel, MDNR	Y	John O'Meara, ARC
Y	Bill Craig, Vice Chair and SPAC representative	Y	Sally Petrella, Friends of the Rouge
Y	Annette DeMaria, ARC	Y	Heather Rice, Washtenaw County Water Resource Commissioners Office
N	Rose Ellison, EPA Representative	Y	Devan Rosturfer, SEMCOG
N	Jacy Garrison, Oakland County Water Resources Commissioners Office	N	Brandy Siedlaczek, Southfield
N	Orin Gelderloos, U-M Dearborn	N	Jennifer Tewkesbury, MDEQ Coordinator
N	Kevin Goodwin, MDEQ	Y	Dean Tuomari, Citizen
N	Barb Goryca, Dearborn citizen		
N	Amy Mangus, SEMCOG		

**Introductions**

Introductions were completed.

**Meeting Summary**

The meeting summary from February 22, 2016 was reviewed and approved by the Council.

**Old Business**

There was discussion on whether a followup letter to MDEQ regarding the delisting criteria was needed. D. Ballnik stated that he would prepare one and send it.

**SPAC Report**

B. Craig reported that he attended the SPAC Winter Business Meeting on March 1, 2016 at UofM-D along with B. Siedlaczek, N. Mullett, S. Petrella, and J. Tewkesbury. B. Craig stated that he reported on the completion of the RRAC habitat project list.

The 2016 AOC Conference was held on March 2-3, 2016 at UofM-D. The presentations can be found by following the Great Lakes AOC link on the RRAC website. J. Tewkesbury and A. LaLonde Norman made presentations on the Rouge River Watershed AOC. B. Craig also let the Council know that he gave Karen Rodriguez, USEPA-GLNPO, a copy of the habitat project list. There was also a reception at The Henry Ford after the conference.

B. Craig reported that he attended the SPAC Summer Business Meeting on June 27-28, 2016 at Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie. S. Petrella and J. Tewkesbury also attended. There was training provided to assist with communications. Members reported on some of the ongoing projects.

The three main presentations were: using social media like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram; the Little Rapids Habitat Restoration; and the Lower Menominee River AOC. A kickoff ceremony for the Little Rapids Habitat Project followed the meeting.

Draft minutes are available for the above meetings. The next SPAC meeting is scheduled for October 27-28, 2016 in Kalamazoo.

### **Funded Projects from Habitat Project List**

N. Mullett reviewed the projects that are being coordinated with EPA. Wayne County received comments on the proposed projects from EPA and has responded to them. The projects include the Oxbow Phase III and the Henry Ford Estates Fishway construction. The contract (\$6.5 million through 2018) will go through Wayne County in one grant and they expect it to be awarded before the end of the year. The proposal will be added to the RRAC website.

J. O'Meara discussed the Regional Partnership grant that the ARC has partnered with Friends of the Detroit River (FDR). This is a NOAA grant awarded to FDR with a target dollar amount of \$25M over three years with the initial concentration in the Detroit AOC with Rouge projects anticipated later. Some potential projects include: Fordson Island and Upland Habitat Restoration; Tamarack Creek Stream and Wetland Restoration; Seeley Creek Restoration; Riverview Park Wetlands; Johnson Creek Fish Hatchery Park Habitat; and Lower Rouge river Habitat Restoration.

N. Mullett gave an update on the Wayne County invasives project which included the contracting for phragmites treatment. Treatment will begin in September on 41 sites with 34 in the Rouge. The map of the treatment sites will be added to the RRAC website. He stated that the impoundments (Newburgh Lake and Wilcox Lake) have already been treated. He also stated that they are planning for some treatments in 2017 and developing an ongoing management strategy. He also informed the group that there will be a grant extension.

### **EPA/MDEQ Update**

J. Tewkesbury was not in attendance so there was no report.

### **2016 GLC PAC Support Grant**

J. O'Meara reviewed the new grant which will support the facilitation of the RRAC along with additional development of other projects on the habitat project list. In addition there is funding for Friends of the Rouge to do a fish community survey. S. Petrella informed the group that the QAPP for the survey has been approved. They will also take steps to avoid spreading invasive plant species during the survey. J. Braunscheidel said he would look into what invasive plants have been found in the Rouge. S. Petrella stated that they will compare the data against the BUIs and potentially suggest adjustments to the criteria of the BUI.

J. O'Meara passed out a priority list of our projects according to the MDEQ/MDNR. He asked that you forward any suggested adjustments if you have them.

### **New Business**

J. Braunscheidel discussed the preparation of a River Plan which he hopes to incorporate some sampling for future work.

J. O'Meara informed the group about the Great Lakes Restoration event being held at The Henry Ford on October 21. This event is free and will be showcasing restoration projects in Southeast Michigan. He invited all to attend.

## **Comments**

### Members

N. Mullett discussed the collaborative IDEP and the fact that it doesn't seem that the MDEQ is embracing the collaboration efforts. It was suggested that RRAC talk to the state on the issue to show their support of these collaborative efforts in their advisory role to the MDEQ. This should happen after the ARC has submitted their response to MDEQ's comments.

B. Craig suggested that the RRAC begin looking at some of the other BUI's and where we are with them and the obstacles for their removal.

### General Public

D. Rosturfer, SEMCOG, reviewed the survey of success stories that they are preparing as part of their water resource plan update since 1999. She stated that they will be hosting 4 stakeholder input meetings throughout Southeast Michigan. She informed the group of the General Assembly scheduled for October 13 and a SEMCOG University on green infrastructure on October 26.

The motion was made to adjourn the meeting by B. Craig and supported by N. Mullett. The motion passed.